

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 VO-05 SS-15 SSO-00 NSCE-00
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P R 111345Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0531
AMCONSUL MUNICH PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BUCHAREST 4854

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CVIS SHUM RO

SUBJECT: PASSPORT DISSIDENTS SIT DOWN (TEMPORARILY) IN US
EMBASSY FOLLOWING RFE BROADCAST ON MOSCOW PENTECOSTALS

1. SUMMARY. THREE GROUPS (OF EIGHT, EIGHT, AND THREE) FROM BUCHAREST AND PROVINCES ATTEMPTED TO SIT DOWN ON EMBASSY GROUNDS JULY 10 TO FORCE ROMANIAN AUTHORITIES TO DELIVER PASSPORTS, BUT LEFT VOLUNTARILY AFTER ABOUT TWO HOURS AFTER CONSULS EXPLAINED WHAT EMBASSY CAN AND CANNOT DO. FIRST GROUP INCLUDED GOMA LETTER SIGNER AND MANY WITH (NON-FIRST-DEGREE) RELATIVES IN US, AND CLAIMED IT WAS RESPONDING TO RFE REPORT THAT PENTECOSTALS HAD BEEN SUCCESSFUL WITH THESE TACTICS IN MOSCOW. SECOND GROUP, ALSO FROM BUCHAREST, UNKNOWN TO EMBASSY AND HAVE NO US RELATIVES. THIRD GROUP WANDERED IN FROM MOLDAVIA. WE WOULD APPRECIATE INFO ON WHAT HAPPENED IN MOSCOW AND WHAT RFE REPORTED. GROUPS WERE NOT ACTING TOGETHER AND CAME AND LEFT SEPARATELY, BUT IT MAY BE DIFFERENT NEXT TIME. END SUMMARY.

2. AT APPROXIMATELY 1300 LOCAL JULY 10 VICE-CONSUL INFORMED BY HANDWRITTEN NOTE THAT GROUP OF EIGHT INTENDED TO BEGIN HUNGER STRIKE ON EMBASSY GROUNDS IN ORDER TO
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PROTEST REFUSAL OF ROMANIAN AUTHORITIES TO PROCESS
PASSPORT APPLICATIONS, AND TO FORCE FAVORABLE ACTION.

3. EMBASSY HAS FILES ON SEVERAL MEMBERS OF GROUP, AS CONSTITUTED. THEY WERE (EXCLUDING FAMILIES): CONSTANTIN ADAM, B. 12/16/34, SIGNER OF PAUL GOMA'S 1977 LETTER, COUSIN IN US; ROBERT BINDER, B. 7/8/59, AUNT IN US, KNOWN

TO EMBASSY; MIHAI CIOCALTEU, B. 9/17/50, COUSIN IN US, KNOWN TO EMBASSY, AND WIFE ADRIANA-RODICA; TUDOR DUMINICA, B. 4/13/48, NO RELATIVES IN US; ANA GABRIELA IONESCU, B. 5/17/42, NO RELATIVES IN US; ALEXANDRU NITA, B. 1/19/54, AUNT IN US; LAZAR RUSU, B. 1/15/43, WIFE'S COUSIN IN US, KNOWN TO EMBASSY.

4. TEXT OF HANDWRITTEN LETTER TO AMBASSADOR, DATED JULY 10, 1978, IN UNOFFICIAL EMBASSY TRANSLATION, IS AS FOLLOWS. BEGIN TEXT. WE ARE A GROUP COMPOSED OF (NAMES FOLLOW), PRESENT AT OUR ACTION ON THE GROUNDS OF THE AMERICAN EMBASSY, WHO ALSO REPRESENT THE INTERESTS OF THE FOLLOWING: ADRIANA RUSU, ELENA BINDER AND ANDREAS, C. CRISTIAN ADAM, NURHAN DUMINICA AND REFICA, WHO FOR CERTAIN REASONS CANNOT PARTICIPATE.

5. OUR ACTION CONSISTS IN DECLARING A HUNGER STRIKE ON THE GROUNDS OF THE AMERICAN EMBASSY, WITH THE GOAL OF OBTAINING PASSPORTS TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

6. WE MENTION THAT THE SITUATION OF THOSE IN THIS GROUP APPEARS TO HAVE NO OTHER NORMAL SOLUTION, SINCE IN RESPONSE TO OUR FREQUENT REQUESTS OVER A LONG PERIOD OF TIME, SOME HAVE BEEN REFUSED, OTHERS DEMOTED FROM THEIR JOBS AND (SUBJECTED TO) NUMEROUS OTHER CHICANERIES.

7. THIS ATTITUDE OF THE COMPETENT ROMANIAN AUTHORITIES, CONFIDENTIAL

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CONTRARY TO THE INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS ROMANIA IS PARTY TO, AS WELL AS TO THE PRINCIPLES OF THE CHARTER OF THE RIGHTS OF MAN AND THE HELSINKI AGREEMENT, CONTINUES TO THE PRESENT, SO THAT WE HAVE DECIDED TO TAKE A FIRM POSITION VIS-A-VIS THIS SITUATION.

8. OUR GROUP ALSO INCLUDES ADAM CONSTANTIN, CO-SIGNATORY OF PAUL GOMA'S LETTER, WHO HAS SUFFERED NUMEROUS MORAL, PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL CONSTRAINTS.

9. NOTWITHSTANDING THE ABOVE, THE GROUP, IN ITS TOTALITY, INCLUDING ADAM CONSTANTIN, IS NOT TAKING A POLITICAL POSITION, BUT ONLY PURSUING RESPECT FOR THE RIGHTS OF MAN, IN PARTICULAR FOR THE FREE CIRCULATION OF PERSONS AND OUR RIGHT FREELY TO CHOOSE THE COUNTRY IN WHICH WE LIVE.

10. ALMOST ALL OF US HAVE RELATIVES IN THE US AND HAVE FILLED OUT PERSONAL FORMS IN THE US CONSULATE.

11. WE ARE CONSCIOUS OF THE FACT THAT OUR CURRENT ACTION MAY PRESENT CERTAIN DIFFICULTIES TO THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN BUCHAREST, IN WHICH REGARD WE ASK FOR YOUR UNDERSTANDING,

SINCE WE FIND OURSELVES IN A DESPARATE SITUATION, FOR
WHICH REASON WE ASK YOUR MORAL AND PRACTICAL SUPPORT.

12. WE ARE DOING THIS BECAUSE OF THE GOOD REPUTATION
THE UNITED STATES AND PRESIDENT CARTER PERSONALLY ENJOY
WITH REGARD TO DEFENSE OF THE RIGHTS OF MAN.

13. SIGNATURES.

14. P.S. WE ASK YOU TO FACILITATE CONTASTS FOR US WITH
FOREIGN JOURNALISTS, IN ORDER TO INFORM INTERNATIONAL
PUBLIC OPINION. END TEXT.

15. THIS GROUP SAID THEY HAD ALL TALKED WITH OFFICIALS
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OF PASSPORT OFFICE, BUT HAD BEEN REFUSED ENTRY ON LAST
ATTEMPT TO VISIT OFFICE, HUSTLED OFF BY POLICE AND FINED.

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 VO-05 SS-15 SSO-00 NSCE-00
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P R 111345Z JUL 78
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INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L FINAL SECTION OF 2 BUCHAREST 4854

16. CONSULAR OFFICERS INTERVIEWED GROUP MEMBERS WHO HAD
NO FILES WITH EMBASSY AND, IN PROLONGED DISCUSSION,
EXPLAINED EMBASSY CANNOT INTERVENE ON GROUP'S BEHALF
SINCE THEY ARE NOT QUALIFIED FOR US IMMIGRANT VISAS, AND
ADVISED GROUP TO LEAVE VOLUNTARILY. GROUP EXPLAINED
PROBLEM WAS NOT WITH EMBASSY BUT WITH PASSPORT OFFICE, AND

THEY HAD HEARD OVER RFE THAT GROUP OF PENTECOSTALS IN MOSCOW HAD HUNGER STRUCK IN EMBASSY THERE AND RECEIVED PASSPORTS AFTER FIVE DAYS. THEY FELT THAT IF WE EVICTED THEM, ROMANIAN AUTHORITIES WOULD GIVE THEM PASSPORTS. CONSULAR OFFICERS EXPLAINED THIS WAS NOT NECESSARILY SO, AND THEY MIGHT BE IN MORE DANGER IF THEY DID NOT LEAVE VOLUNTARILY. GROUP LEFT, VOLUNTARILY, ONLY AFTER FURTHER DISCUSSION ALONG SAME LINES WITH CONSUL.

17. SECOND GROUP, ALSO FROM BUCHAREST, ARRIVED SEPARATELY ABOUT SAME TIME. CONSULAR INTERVIEWS MADE IT APPARENT NONE (OF EIGHT) HAS RELATIVES IN US, AND SOME MAY BE INELIGIBLE UNDER 212(A) (9). GROUP LEFT, WITHOUT HAVING MADE CONTACT WITH FIRST GROUP, ABOUT 1330 LOCAL.

18. THIRD GROUP, TWO BROTHERS AND FRIEND FROM VASLUI AND BACAU COUNTIES IN MOLDAVIA, CAME IN ABOUT 1500 AND LEFT
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SHORTLY THEREAFTER; NONE HAD APPLIED FOR PASSPORTS, ONE HAD UNCLE IN US BUT DID NOT KNOW HIS NAME. EMBASSY HAS NAMES OF SECOND AND THIRD GROUP MEMMBERS ON FILE.

19. COMMENT AND ACTION REQUESTED. AT MOMENT WHEN USSR AND GDR BOTH ENGAGED IN TRYING AND CONVICTING DISSIDENTS, EMBASSY CANNOT REFRAIN FROM DRAWING ATTENTION TO DIFFERING TREATMENT IN ROMANIA: ALL THREE GROUPS ENTERED AND LEFT EMBASSY WITHOUT HARASSMENT (ALTHOUGH WE SUSPECT SOME WILL HAVE BEEN PICKED UP AND INTERROGATED AROUND CORNER). HOWEVER, EXPLICIT "NON-POLITICAL" CHARACTER OF DEMARCHES MAY EXPLAIN MUCH OF DIFFERENCE. DISSIDENT PHENOMENON IN ROMANIA CONTINUES TO BE ASSOCIATED LARGELY WITH FREEDOM TO CHOOSE DOMICILE, AND DESIRE TO RECEIVE PASSPORTS, WHICH GOR HAS BUILT A RECORD, OVER PAST YEAR, OF RECOGNIZING IN PRACTICE WHILE REJECTING IN PRINCIPLE. FINALLY, WE WOULD APPRECIATE FURTHER INFO FROM ADDRESSEES ON WHAT HAPPENED TO MOSCOW PENTECOSTALS, AND WHAT RFE ROMANIAN SERVICE REPORTED, IN ORDER TO BE PREPARED FOR FURTHER GROUPS OF YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN WE CANNOT HELP MUCH, IF AT ALL, AND WHO MAY BE WILLING TO HURT THEMSELVES ON BASIS OF KIND OF BROADCAST THIS GROUP DESCRIBED.
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